THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government propose to talk with the Government of Nepal at an early date to resolve outstanding issues through a friendly dialogue. An invitation has been extended to Shri S. K. Upadhyaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, to visit India. This visit is likely to take place in first week of January, 1990.

Withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka

216. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : *Will the Minister of* EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are following the policy of withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka ;

(b) if so, what is the total number of Indian troops returned from Sri Lanka during the last one year ; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating for the safety and security of the Sri Lankan Tamils in Sri Lanka ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By the end of the year six of the eighth Districts of the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka would have been vacated by the IPKF.

(c) Government have initiated steps to bring about amity between Tamil groups. At the request of the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Karunanidhi has already held talks with the LTTE for this purpose. Government are also in close touch with the Sri Lanka Government in order to ensure that arrangements for the safety and security of Tamils and other communities are strengthened simultaneously with the withdrawal of the IPKF.

Withdrawal of cases against Indira Gandhi Assassination accused

217. SHRI P.N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the reasons that prompted Government to withdraw the charges pending in a Delhi Court against the accused in the Indira Gandhi assassination case ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Prosecution in the case which is also known as the larger conspiracy case, was withdrawan as it was found expedient to do so in the broader public interest ; maintenance of peace and to help promote harmony among the people in the changed political situation.

Selection of programmes for Social cultural and economic transformation

218. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 32 programmes have been selected for creating more positive atmosphere in the country for social, cultural and economic transformation by Doordarshan, Akashwani, National Film Development Corporation, Films Division, DAVP, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, alongwith the mode of their selection of programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Devising programmes for socio-economic and cultural transformation by making people aware of the